

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 SSM-05
/057 W

-----111035Z 022435 /13

O R 110959Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5640
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2514

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: MAPAM UNDER PRESSURE TO REMAIN IN THE ALIGNMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 2504

1. THE MAPAM CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET LATER TODAY TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO REMAIN IN THE ALIGNMENT UNDER SHIMON PERES. THE LABOR PARTY IS EXERTING HEAVY PRESSURE ON ITS JUNIOR PARTNER, POINTING OUT THAT MAPAM'S FEW SEATS (IT HAS SIX OF THE ALIGNMENT'S 49 SEATS IN THE CURRENT KNESSET) COULD DETERMINE WHETHER LABOR OR LIKUD WILL EMERGE IN FIRST PLACE AFTER THE MAY 17 ELECTION AND CONSEQUENTLY RECEIVE A MANDATE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT.

2. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO A MAPAM SOURCE, THE ONLY PRACTICAL RESULT OF DISSOLVING THE ALIGNMENT WOULD BE A DELAY OF ABOUT SIX WEEKS IN THE FORMATION OF THE NEXT COALITION. HE ARGUED THAT SHOULD THE
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LIKUD WIN A PLURALITY AND BE ASKED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD FAIL AND THE NOD WOULD THEN BE GIVEN TO LABOR, WHICH WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE REJOINED BY MAPAM.

3. THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT MAPAM'S NEAR-SOLID DETERMINATION TO BOLT AN ALIGNMENT

HEADED BY PERES, IN EVIDENCE LAST FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, IS ERODING. LABOR'S NEW TRIUMVIRATE OF PERES-ALLON-EBAN ALL SPOKE TO MAPAM'S LEADERSHIP BUREAU ON APRIL 10 PRIOR TO THE LABOR PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING AND APPARENTLY WON SOME CONVERTS. UNDER INTENSE QUESTIONING, PERES DISAVOWED ANY INTENTION OF FORMING A COALITION WITH THE LIKUD; INSISTED THAT NO UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENTS WOULD BE PERMITTED IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES; AND REAFFIRMED HIS SUPPORT OF LABOR'S PLATFORM CALLING FOR TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE WITH EGYPT, SYRIA AND JORDAN--ALL OF WHICH ARE POINTS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO MAPAM.

4. IN HIS APPEAL, ALLON (WHO AS SUFFICIENTLY DOVISH WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCEPTABLE TO MAPAM AS RABIN'S REPLACEMENT) REMINDED MAPAM THAT, AS DEFENSE MINISTER IN A PERES GOVERNMENT, HE COULD BE TRUSTED TO ENFORCE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENTS. EBAN ARGUED THAT WITH ALLON AND HIMSELF ASSURED OF STRONG POSITIONS IN A LABOR-LED GOVERNMENT, LABOR'S LEADERSHIP SHOULD NOW BE SEEN AS ACTUALLY CLOSER TO MAPAM'S VIEWS.

5. AFTER ABOVE WAS DRAFTED, EMBASSY LEARNED THAT MAPAM'S LEADERSHIP BUREAU, IN CONFERENCE THIS MORNING TO PREPARE FOR TODAY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, HAS SPLIT EIGHT TO EIGHT ON WHETHER TO RECOMMEND REMAINING IN THE ALIGNMENT.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 11-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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